

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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TAGS: PFOR SGEN VE

SUBJ: FRENCH PEACE CORPS-TYPE ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELA

REF: STAT 236947(NOTAL); CARACAS 10877(NOTAL)

1. IN THE COURSE OF DEVELOPING INFO REQUESTED BY STATE 236947 CONCERNING THE 1976 PEACE CORPS PROGRAM, WE HAVE ALSO OBTAINED DETAILED INFO CONCERNING FRENCH PEACE CORPS-TYPE ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA. THIS INFO IS SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FRENCH PROGRAM IN VENEZUELA- BEGAN IN 1965 WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF FRENCH "VOLUNTEERS" AND NOW OPERATES WITH ABOUT 200 FRENCH PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERS IN THE PEACE CORPS SENSE OF THE WORD BUT RATHER AS FRENCH CITIZENS FULFILLING THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE SERVICE. MOST ARE RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES: THEY WORK ONLY WITH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION COOPERATION, THE SANTA MONICA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN THE CITY OF BARQUISIMETO.

3. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE- THE PROGRAM IS LIMITED TO MEN;
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NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR THE VENEZUELAN GOVTS PAY FOR WIVES.

SERVICE IN VENEZUELA IS LIMITED TO BETWEEN 14 TO 16 MONTHS. THE FRENCH GOVT PAYS TRANSPORTATION AND MOVING EXPENSES; THE RECEIVING VENEZUELAN AGENCY SINCE THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION HAS PAID A MONTHLY STIPEND WHICH CURRENTLY AVERAGES ABOUT 1900 BOLIVARES (ABOUT \$444.00) PER PARTICIPANT.

4. PROGRAMMING STRUCTURE - VENEZUELAN ENTITIES

DESIRING THE SERVICES OF FRENCH PARTICIPANTS MAKE REQUEST TO THE COMMERCIAL OR CULTURAL ATTACHE OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN CARACAS AND THESE REQUESTS ARE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVT ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY CORDIPLAN. THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE ATTEMPTS TO MATCH RESUMES OF AVAILABLE PARTICIPANTS WITH THE SKILLS AND SERVICES REQUESTED BY THE VENEZUELAN ENTITIES. SELECTIONS OF FRENCH PARTICIPANTS ARE MADE BY THE VENEZUELAN ENTITIES, WHICH ADVISE THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE, WHICH IN TURN MAKES THE NECESSARY CONTACTS WITH THE FRENCH GOVT TO PROVIDE THE PARTICIPANTS SELECTED.
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